



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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Chief Administrative Officer

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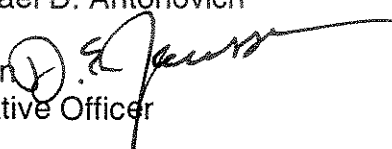
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Third District

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Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

April 6, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen   
Chief Administrative Officer

**TRANSPORTATION OF UNFIT JUVENILES**

On March 3, 2004, on motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, my office was instructed to work with the Chief Probation Officer and Sheriff and report back to the Board within 30 days with an assessment of the existing system of transporting juveniles who are tried in adult court, with feasible recommendations to streamline the transportation system.

Under California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 707, a juvenile may be declared unfit to be dealt with by the juvenile court and tried as an adult, otherwise referred to as unfit. These juveniles comprise an average daily juvenile hall population of approximately 105 minors, generally ranging in age from 15 to 17 years old, and held on various charges such as murder and attempted murder, robbery, kidnapping and rape. Prior to the contract with the California Youth Authority, approximately 20 of the highest risk offenders were housed at Men's Central Jail.

The balance of the unfits were formerly housed at Central Juvenile Hall (CJH). These juveniles must have sight and sound separation from adult inmates. In August 2002, due to escape attempts at juvenile halls or while en route to medical appointments, these juveniles were subsequently transferred to Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) in Sylmar, where they continue to be housed. BJNJH was selected because it provided greater security.

## **CURRENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

### **Transportation From BJNJH to Court**

Probation System: The Probation Department's Transportation Division transports juveniles to and from juvenile court and medical appointments, including approximately 13 to 20 unfit minors daily from BJNJH to CJH for adult court appearances. Probation utilizes four Transportation Deputies and two 15-passenger transportation vans to provide court transportation services for juveniles being tried in adult court. Probation Transportation Deputies do not carry firearms. Juveniles may need to be transported in separate vans because they are codefendants or have special transportation needs.

Passenger vans leave BJNJH at 4:00 a.m. and arrive by 6:00 a.m. at CJH. From CJH, the Los Angeles County Sheriff takes custody of the minors and assumes responsibility for transporting them to Men's Central Jail (MCJ) where they are transferred to buses serving the individual adult courts. At the end of the day, the juveniles are returned by bus from court to MCJ, and are then transported by Sheriff staff to CJH where they are returned to the custody of Probation staff for transportation to BJNJH. This return process begins at 12:00 noon and may extend until 10:00 p.m. depending on court schedules.

The Probation Department reports that on average, transportation of unfit juveniles to and from BJNJH to CJH requires approximately 16.0 Probation staff hours per day. The Sheriff's Department reports that transportation, processing and security for juveniles transported from CJH to and from court and during the court process requires 38.0 Deputy Sheriff staff hours per day.

Current Sheriff Program: After delivery to CJH, two Deputy Sheriffs transport the minors to MCJ for assignment to buses that will deliver them to adult court. Although this may require multiple trips to comply with separation requirements as well as to meet other special transportation needs, such as accommodation for handicapped juveniles, due to the close proximity of CJH to MCJ, approximately five miles round trip, two Deputy Sheriffs can handle this workload. However, the same staff cannot provide multiple trips from BJNJH to MCJ within the time required to deliver the juveniles to court because of the increased distance of 54 miles round trip.

### **Transportation from Juvenile Court**

When a minor is declared unfit to be tried in the juvenile court, he or she is immediately separated from other juveniles in the custody area, and is transported from juvenile court to CJH, pending transportation to BJNJH. The number of minors declared "unfit" by the juvenile court ranges from five to ten per month. On the average, the

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transporting of these unfit minors from Juvenile Court to CJH, and subsequently to BJNJH equates to approximately 312 Probation Department staff hours or \$8,000 per year.

### **Transportation to Medical Appointments**

Juveniles being tried as adults also need to be transported from BJNJH to medical appointments. Depending on the nature of the medical appointment, this may require one hour to as long as six or more hours. On the average, the transporting of these unfit minors equates to approximately 4,500 Probation Department staff hours or \$106,000 per year.

### **SHERIFF PROPOSAL**

At Probation's request, the Sheriff has proposed a plan to transport juveniles from BJNJH to MCJ for assignment to a bus and/or vans that will deliver them to the designated court location and return the juveniles from their respective court locations to MCJ until they are transported back to BJNJH. This will require approximately 48 Deputy Sheriff staff hours per day. The estimated cost of \$773,512 provides for transportation and supervision services, fuel and maintenance of vehicles, meals for juveniles, and is based on a daily rate of \$3,119 and 248 court days. Attached is a draft copy of the Sheriff's proposal for basic services during the initial term of the program. In the initial year, training for Probation staff and a Sheriff's Department analysis of policies and procedures for transporting unfit juveniles to and from BJNJH would also be required, at a one-time cost of \$21,800.

The Sheriff and Probation Departments recommend that the Sheriff transport unfit juveniles to and from BJNJH as this will address security concerns and will mitigate attempted escapes. We concur with this recommendation.

### **Conclusion**

Although Probation staff would not perform transportation for unfit minors if the Sheriff's program is implemented, they will continue to transport other minors in their custody to juvenile court and medical appointments. Consequently, Probation cannot eliminate staff positions to absorb the additional cost related to transporting unfits to and from BJNJH, but \$93,000 in overtime costs would be avoided.

The Sheriff's Department has historically transported juveniles tried in adult court from CJH to MCJ. However, existing Sheriff's staff cannot perform the additional workload of transporting minors from BJNJH to MCJ since the distance to BJNJH precludes them

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from making multiple trips to accommodate the number of juveniles and any special transportation needs.

Since this would be an increase in workload for the Sheriff's Department, we recommend offsetting the program cost of \$773,512 ongoing and \$21,800 in one-time costs by reducing Probation Department overtime by \$93,000, and funding the remaining balance of \$702,312 from Appropriation for Contingencies. However, due to uncertainties regarding the State budget impact on local governments, we recommend that this item be deferred to budget deliberations.

Pending your Board's decision on this matter, Probation Department transportation staff would continue to transport unfit juveniles to and from BJNJH for adult court and medical appointments.

Costs to transport minors from juvenile court who have been declared unfit as well as transportation of unfit minors to medical appointments will be billed directly to Probation and are not included in this recommendation.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may call Eva Snider of my staff at (213) 974-2291.

DEJ:DIL  
ES:AL:ljp

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Sheriff  
Chief Probation Officer

transportation.bm

**DRAFT**

PRICING AND BILLING SCHEDULE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

COST FOR BASIC SERVICE DURING INITIAL TERM

Vehicles:

BUS - Daily Rate for average of 162 miles .....\$ 371.00  
VAN - Daily Rate for average of 52 miles .....\$ 63.00

Personnel - Deputy Service Units:

Transportation, Processing & Supervision .....\$ 2,610.00

Meals:

Average 25 per day @ \$3.00 ea. ....\$ 75.00

**TOTAL DAILY FLAT RATE COST .....\$ 3,119.00**

**ANNUAL FLAT RATE COST FOR BASIC SERVICE .....\$ 773,512.00**  
(Annual Flat Rate = Daily Flat Rate x 248 Court Business Days)

ADDITIONAL COSTS - FIRST CONTRACT YEAR

Training:

Flat rate cost per individual 40-hour Class .....\$ 1,475.00

Flat rate cost for eight (8) 40-hour classes .....\$ 11,800.00

Review and Analysis of Policies and Procedures:

Estimated one-time cost to review, analyze, and provide  
written recommendations for improving operations,  
equipment, policies and procedures .....\$ 10,000.00

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST - FIRST CONTRACT YEAR .....\$ 795,312.00**

ADDITIONAL BILLABLE COSTS FOR AS-NEEDED MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Cost per Mile - VAN .....\$ 1.25

Hourly Overtime Rate - DEPUTY .....\$ 50.10